

Kingston Lake Environment Awareness Network (KLEAN) - Update for January 2008

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the Kingston Lake Environment Awareness Network (**KLEAN**)!

About once a month, you will receive an e-update with the latest information about Kingston Lake, Crabtree Swamp, and the Waccamaw River. Let's see what's been happening lately and what's coming up.

Events and Announcements

The seminar held on **January 17th** entitled "*Getting to Know Wetlands and the Rules that Govern Them: A Primer for Local Governments and Professionals*" was a huge success, with a packed house and a long waiting list. If you missed it, all of the seminar handouts are available online at http://www.northinlet.sc.edu/training/training_events.htm. Click on "Getting to Know Wetlands", which is listed under 'Past Events.' Based on the demand for this workshop, another one will likely be scheduled for the spring, so stay tuned for details.

The Horry County Stormwater Advisory Board will hold its next regular meeting on **February 12th from 3-5 PM**. Meetings are held at the Horry County Government and Justice Center on 2nd Avenue in Conway. A public input period is always scheduled. For more information, visit <http://www.horrycounty.org/stormwater/index.asp?page=9>.

The next meeting of the Conway Water Quality and Drainage Commission will be held on **February 20th at 6 PM**. Commission meetings are held in Conway City Hall on 3rd Avenue and Main Street in the conference room on the first floor. A public input period is always scheduled.

This Month's Feature - Water Monitoring

Water monitoring in the Waccamaw River system is giving us a clearer understanding of the quantity and quality of water flowing through our region. Expanded monitoring of the Waccamaw River and its major tributaries such as Crabtree Canal/Swamp and Kingston Lake is set to begin soon. Teams of volunteers, coordinated by Coastal Carolina University's Waccamaw Watershed Academy with help from the Waccamaw Riverkeeper, have been monitoring the river at 10 sites. This year, monitoring will be expanded to 19 sites, including some in Murrells Inlet. The monitoring partnership includes funding from the City of Conway, Georgetown County, Horry County, and the Town of Surfside Beach. Parameters to be sampled include E. coli bacteria, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, temperature, pH, conductivity, and nutrients.

In addition, CCU's Waccamaw Watershed Academy will conduct regulatory-level water quality monitoring at 6 sites in the Waccamaw River and 1 in the Pee Dee River. The data collected will supplement and corroborate information being recorded at U.S. Geological Survey gaging stations that continuously operate at each of the sites. The sampling parameters include nutrients, chlorophyll, bacteria, biological oxygen demand, and water toxicity. An annual report will be generated and emergency notification will occur if sample results exceed state standards.

On a rotating 5-year basis, SC DHEC conducts intensive sampling in each of the five major river basins in the state. These data are used to compile a Watershed Water Quality Assessment Report (archived reports can be found at http://www.scdhec.net/environment/water/shed/pd_main.htm). In a stroke of good timing, the Pee Dee River Basin, which includes the Waccamaw River, is scheduled to undergo intensive sampling in 2008. During this year's intensive sampling effort, SC DHEC has elected to conduct special studies to address known water quality concerns in the Waccamaw River and one of its major tributaries, Crabtree Canal/Swamp. Sampling parameters include bacteria, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature,

sediment, and macrobenthic invertebrates such as insects, freshwater mussels, and crayfish. This additional sampling is specifically designed to support the efforts of KLEAN in restoring Crabtree Canal/Swamp.

Finally, CCU's Waccamaw Watershed Academy and Horry County are partnering to conduct monitoring of Crabtree Canal/Swamp to help with stream restoration efforts. A primary focus will be on sediment and silt and will also include flow measurements. At least 17 sites will be monitored and coordinated with SC DHEC's sampling.

This extensive array of water quality monitoring efforts is intended to lead to: 1) a better understanding of the current status and conditions in the Waccamaw River and its tributaries; 2) the ability to track illicit discharges of pollutants; 3) the ability to track changes in water quality and quantity over time; and 4) the ability to track effects of stream restoration projects planned for the future. Volunteer monitoring also builds community stewardship and awareness of water quality issues. This addresses two important requirements in the new federal stormwater program that our local municipalities are implementing.

Learn More

If you are looking for a speaker for your group's next meeting, why not book a presentation about water quality or wetlands? David Fuss and Dr. Susan Libes of Coastal Carolina University are available for presentations geared for citizen groups. For more information, contact David Fuss at 843-349-4023 or dfuss@coastal.edu.

To sign up for monthly updates from KLEAN, send an email to KLEAN@sccoast.net or call 248-1730.

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